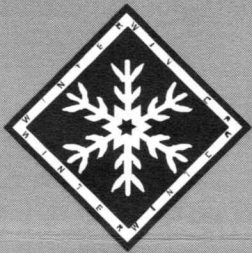


Tale Feathers

Dec/Jan
2003/2004
Volume 70
Number 10



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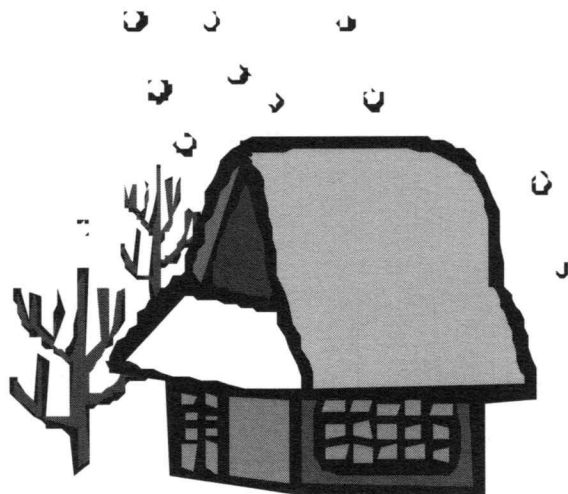
Good Books and Good Cheer at the Holiday Party

Seven author-members plan to attend the Holiday Open House Party at the Green Center December 7, 2003 from 1-4pm. They include :Paul Bauer, Randy Korotev, Robert Rubright, David Snetsinger, Kay Yatskievyck, Jim Jackson, and Doug Ladd.

Each author will bring copies of his or her book for sale and signing. Members may purchase *Birds of the St. Louis Area: Where and When to Find Them* published by WGNSS for \$12.

The Green Center, with its central location, makes a pleasant destination for renewing old friendships and chatting about our favorite topic, the natural world. Please bring an appetizer, a dessert or a casserole to share. The center's kitchen includes a microwave for warming food. Beverages will be provided. Let's begin the holidays together with good books and delicious food in a new setting.

Directions from highway 40. Turn north on Hanley Rd and continue to Delmar Blvd. Continue on Hanley Rd to Blackberry Ave., the fourth street north of Delmar. Turn left (west) on Blackberry Ave to 8025 on your right. University City's Kaufman Park is located next door to the Green Center.



St. Louis Audubon Society

New Members

Nancy Baglan
Marge Bouers
Virginia Busch
Kathryn Damrath
Natalie Decarlo
Samantha Emery
Ruth Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Glaser
Richard Hintz
Donna Jepsen
Newell Knight
Gerald Kretmar
Ursula Krieger
J Marshall Magner
Ellen Mattli
Martha R. McAlister
Marilyn Menke
Wade Norman
William Perry
Fred W. Roos
Richard E. Schanbacher
Carol Shook
Ernst Stadler
Jennifer Suits

Katherine and Lawrence
Swartzell
Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas
Leslie L. Wechling
Winter Bros.
Laura Yates
Chuck Beckrich
Marianne Davis
James Wynn

Transfers

Hartwell
Helen Hessley
Michael Hidusky
Gail Johnston
Steven Kortum
Callie Rennison
Henry Skolnick

Pale Male: The Movie

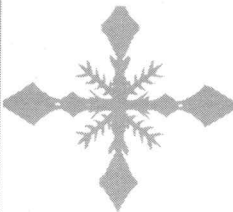
High above New York's Central Park, a truly remarkable event is unfolding. In the midst of this busy city, a bold and daring red-tailed hawk has taken up residence. Affectionately known to locals as "Pale Male," the hawk courts, breeds, and hunts as its devoted urban fans root for its survival. After unexpected perils, triumphs, and tragedies, onlookers gaze in rapt anticipation as the hawk's chicks prepare to take their first tentative flight from a nest on the ledge of a luxury apartment building. "Pale Male" is a rare glimpse of one of nature's great predators, and a surprising account of the magical relationship humanity can have with nature.

Join us on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center to enjoy this award-winning documentary narrated by Joanne Woodward. The film is 54 minutes long and will be preceded by a few Society announcements. Please bring a friend as the show is free to all and popcorn and soda will be served.

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go 1/2 mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. The Community Center is on the ground floor and can be reached thru the northwest corner entrance.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

AWARD NOMINATIONS



Nominations are now being accepted for the St. Louis Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year. The Robert J. Terry Award and the Legislator of the Year Award. Each award recognizes those whose work supports the mission of the Audubon Society. All nominations should be sent by March 1 to:

Julie Leeman
13021 Barrett Crossing Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63122

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY'S CHRISTMAS IS FOR THE BIRDS

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2003
Time: 9am-3pm
Cost: \$7.50/child with registration prior to 11/30/03,
\$10/child after 11/30/03

Make your reservations today for a fun and exciting holiday event. Each child gets his or her photo with our special wilderness Santa who holds a live bird of prey! Avoid standing in long lines! Holiday crafts and entertainment, such as storytelling and sing-a-longs, will keep little visitors on Santa's "nice list"! Registration discount deadline is 11/30/03. Price includes photo, cookies and milk and craft materials. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Group rates available. Please call (636)225-4390.

104th Annual Christmas Bird Count

The St. Louis Audubon Society invites birders and nature lovers to participate in the upcoming 104th Annual Christmas Bird Count.

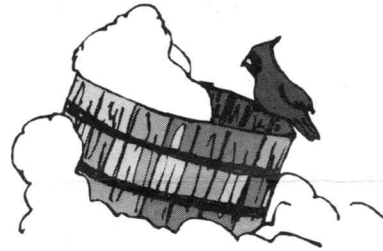
Begun on Christmas Day in 1900 as an alternative to the traditional competitive bird hunt, the CBC is the longest-running volunteer bird census. This year nearly 2,000 individual counts will take place throughout the Americas from December 14 to January 5. Over 55,000 volunteers will count and record birds seen and heard. During last year's CBC, 73 million birds were counted!

The CBC produces valuable scientific data about the status of resident and migratory birds, and the winter distribution of birds. The data, 100% volunteer-generated, have become a crucial part of the U. S. Government's natural history database. Articles published in the 103rd CBC issue of American Birds helped ornithologists better understand the effects of West Nile virus on wild bird populations.

In the St. Louis region six CBCs will be conducted from December 15, 2003 through January 3, 2004. Check out the schedule and plan to participate in one or more of the counts. The National Audubon Society requires a \$5 fee to offset the cost of publishing the CBC results. Contact the compiler for more information and to volunteer.

Winter 2003 / 2004

St. Louis Regional Christmas Bird Counts



CBC	CBC Date	Compiler or POC	Telephone	e-mail	Mtg time	Mtg place
Busch/Weldon Spring	January 3, 2004	Tom Parmeter	314-921-6017	tkssp@charter.net	8:00 AM	Busch C.A. visitor's center parking lot
Carlyle Lake	December 15, 2003	Dan Kassebaum	618-233-5451	kdan@htc.net	Contact Dan	Contact Dan
Clarence Cannon	December 27, 2003	Scott Schuette Bruce Schuette	636-528-6544	baessch@nothnbut.net	Call Scott or Bruce	Call Scott or Bruce
Mingo	December 27, 2003	Paul Bauer Bill Reeves	314-921-3972 573-756-2994	none	Call Paul or Bill	Call Paul or Bill
Orchard Farm	January 1, 2004	Randy Korotev	314-993-0055	rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu	Call Randy	Call Randy
Pere Marquette	December 20, 2003	Helen Wuestenfeld Irene Mondhink	618-498-5335 618-885-5233	helenw@gtec.com	7:30 AM	Pere Marquette S.P.Lodge

Birding Trips for December, January and February

John Solodar

Dec 7, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Riverlands starts at 8:00 am and is led by Dave Rogles. Expect to see Bald Eagles plus lots of gulls, swans and ducks, maybe including some rare ones.

Dec 13, Saturday - Dave Rogles knows the Riverlands area very well and leads this SLAS trip starting at the more pleasant time of 9:00 AM. Dress warmly as Riverlands can be one of the coldest places on earth during winter. The expected birds are the same as the trip for December 7.

Dec 21, Sunday - Kent Lannert leads a WGNSS trip to Baldwin Lake in Illinois. Meet at the boat launch parking lot at 8:00 AM and dress warmly as the Baldwin Lake area can be very cold and windy.

Jan 10, Saturday - SLAS trip to Forest 44 and Lone Elk Park. This winter trip had some interesting birds last year including Winter Wren, Rusty Blackbird and Wild Turkey. Join Mike Thelen at 9:00 AM at Forest 44. Directions below.

Jan 24, Saturday - SLAS trip to Riverlands starts at 9:00 AM and is led by Mike Thelen and Joe Eades. This will be one of your best chances to see those rare winter gulls as well as lots of ducks and Bald Eagles. There is always a chance for some good birds around the feeders such as Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs.

Feb 7, Saturday - This is a relaxed afternoon trip to Riverlands. We'll start at 1:00 pm and Dave Rogles and John Solodar will be the leaders. The birds we hope to see are similar to those of the Jan 24 trip except that by being there in the afternoon we might pick up Short-eared Owls late in the day.

Feb 14, Saturday - Bundle up and head to Baldwin Lake for a 9:00 AM trip led by Jim Malone and Joe Eades. Expect some Snow and Ross's Geese and lots of other good birds at this Illinois lake. It's set up to be an all day trip so bring some water and lunch. Put some hand warmers in your gloves for good measure.

How to get there

Forest 44 - Take I-44 west from I-270 and go 3.5 miles to Hwy 141. Travel south on Hwy 141 to Meramec Station Road (first stoplight) and turn right.

Follow Meramec Station Road to Hillsboro Road. Turn left on Hillsboro Rd for 0.4 mile to parking area on the right.

Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

Baldwin Lake - Take I-270 across the Jefferson Barracks Bridge to Illinois. Take Hwy 3 south to Redbud. Go east on Hwy 154 to Baldwin, IL. Follow signs in town to Lake Baldwin. Meet at the boat launch parking lot.



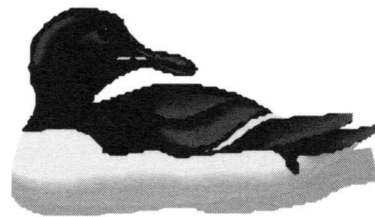
Paper Free Renewal

Instead of receiving multiple renewal notices, members can now call 800-274-4201 and ask to sign up for Audubon's Paper Free Renewal Program. Those who sign up will have their membership automatically renewed each year, and will simply receive one bill approximately two months in advance of their membership expiration date. Members can cancel at any time and it saves paper and simplifies accounting.

2003 Mingo Christmas Bird Count

This year's Mingo Christmas Bird Count is on SATURDAY December 27th. In southeast Missouri the most exciting year round birding area is Mingo NWR, which is flanked by Duck Creek Conservation Area and Wappapello State Park. This count has exceeded 100 bird species in recent years; will it break a new record this year? Help make it possible and join the adventure.

On count day, meet at 6am at Mel's Diner, which is located at 251 East Richardson Street in Puxico, a couple of blocks east(left) of the yellow flashing light on Highway 51. After breakfast, briefing and assignments, teams will begin counting by 7:00am and will report back to the restaurant at the end of Count Day (approx. 5:00pm). The participation fee of \$5.00 per person will be collected at the time of sign-up on Count Day.



If you intend to participate, please notify Bill Reeves by December 20th, so that he can organize Count groups. Contact Bill Reeves at 573.760.8810 (office) or 573.756.2994 (home). If you want lodging for Friday night at a local motel in nearby Wappapello, Mo contact Miller's Motor Lodge 573.222.8579. They are located 2 miles south of Wappapello Dam on Hwy T and are confirmed to be open on these dates. If you need directions or maps to get to Puxico or Wappapello, contact Paul Bauer at 314.921.3972

President's Report

Bill Salsgiver

Roger Still recently gave an update on Audubon Missouri's efforts to get a National Audubon Center located here in St. Louis in the form of an "Audubon Ark". The Ark would be an actual floating boat and the unique thing about it would be its ability to get people out onto the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. It is interesting to think about having a National Audubon Center here in the St. Louis area and the two big rivers are tremendous assets that could use a little attention paid to them. While there are many details to be worked out, the possibilities for the Center are exciting.

During this holiday season, I imagine that many of you will be upgrading your optics. As you do, please think of us as a source for your cast-off pairs of binoculars. In our various educational outreach programs we have the occasion to loan binoculars to beginners to show them the birds we are discussing. Our supply of loaners is dwindling and could use some reinforcement. And the number of events where we need the binoculars is increasing. So, send your unneeded pairs our way. They'll be put to good use. Thanks!

Read Mike Thelen's article elsewhere in this newsletter about the Christmas Bird Counts. They are a great opportunity to get out and bird, but also a chance to contribute to Audubon's long tradition of Citizen Science.

Also, make sure to check out our newly updated website at www.stlouisaudubon.org. Diane Pierce is our new webmaster and is doing a wonderful job.

I hope you all have a safe and peaceful Holiday Season.

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

Legislative Conservation "Scorecard" - Missouri Votes Conservation (MVC), was established in 2001 as a program of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. Audubon has participated in MVC meetings and has provided input regarding environmental legislative concerns and priorities. MVC operates as a nonpartisan statewide nonprofit group working to make conservation a priority for our state government and to inform Missourians about their elected officials' environmental positions. MVC recently released its first Conservation Scorecard, grading lawmakers on their pro-conservation votes on issues identified by conservationists as important for the 2003 session. Bill topics included water quality, clean air, dependable energy development, regulatory controls, transportation, citizens right to know, confined animal feeding operations and protection of streams. The Scorecard shows that Missouri's state legislators voted with conservation interests less than half the time on key conservation bills. However, there were thirteen members of the House and one member of the Senate who received "Conservation Hero" awards for their 100% pro-environmental voting. Governor Bob Holden also was designated as a Conservation Hero for his 100% pro-environmental stance. To see how your legislators voted, the 2003 Conservation Scorecard is available online at <http://mvc.moenviro.org> or by calling MVC at 314-727-0600.

Missouri River Greenway Community Forums Scheduled - Great Rivers Greenway (GRG), formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, is one of the largest districts of its kind in the nation. The organization was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks, and Community Trails Initiative ("Proposition C") in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County. Great Rivers Greenway is funded by a 1/10th of 1-cent sales tax. The Missouri River Greenway is a project of GRG and will include a 35-mile greenway along the Missouri River extending from Columbia Bottom in Spanish Lake to the Page Avenue Extension. Once completed, the greenway will connect the parks, historical sites and cultural venues of six communities,

as residents participate in such activities as biking, walking, running, boating, fishing and observing wildlife. Two community forums will be held to acquaint residents with the project: the December 9th forum will be held from 4-7 p.m. in the Student Center at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, 3400 Pershall, and the December 11th forum will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Maryland Heights Center, 2344 McKelvey Road. At both forums, the study team will display design alternatives for the greenway and ask for input regarding connectivity between the communities and potential resident-driven activities for the greenway.

Eagle Days January 17th and 18th at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge - One of the best ways to get people interested in birds and conservation is by viewing Bald Eagles in the wild. The Missouri Department of Conservation will sponsor the annual Eagle Days Event in our area at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge (south on the River View exit off of I-270) on January 17th and 18th. Telescopes and interpretive programs will be provided. Detailed information about this fun event is provided at 314-231-3803 or log on to www.missouriconservation.org/events/eagledays/.

NABA PROGRAM

Backyard habitat specialists, Richard and Susan Day will present a slide show entitled "How to Create a Bird & Butterfly Garden" at 7:30 p.m. on March 10, 2004. It will take place at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

The Days' slide presentation will show you how to get started in landscaping your yard for birds and butterflies.

Susan will be available to personally autograph copies of her book, *The Wildlife Gardener's Guide to Hummingbirds and Songbirds From the Tropics*.

Join them for a lively evening at this outstanding photo presentation!

High School Student Award

The St. Louis Audubon Society is also offering a High School Student Award of \$250.00 the award will be given to an exemplary high school junior or senior who plans further study in ecology, biology or related fields.

Application information is available at www.stlouisadubon.org. Students should return the application form, including essay and a letter of recommendation from a science teacher by Feb. 26, 2004 to

Julie Leeman
13021 Barrett Crossing Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Volunteers Needed for Eagle Watching

The staff at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area is seeking volunteers to help on weekends during the eagle watching period of late November through the end of February. Volunteers would be in the office on the Missouri side of the river to answer visitors' questions, direct them to locations to see various species of birds and to help with the eagle video which will be set up in the conference room. The presence of someone in the office will enable visitors to use the heated bathrooms which are in the building. The hours when volunteers are needed are 9 am - 1 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Contact Phil Manhart at the Great Rivers Museum at 1-877-462-6979 ext 7812 if you are interested and specify that you are interested in the volunteer slot at the Rivers Project Office on the Missouri side. Even if you can only help for one day during the season Phil will appreciate your offering.

Audubon Camp Teacher Scholarships

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer teacher scholarships to the Audubon Ecology Summer Camps in Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The scholarships cover the cost of the 6-7 day camp session fee and include up to \$200.00 toward the cost of transportation.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information is available at www.stlouisaudubon.org. Applicants should return the application form and letter of recommendation from their principal by February 26, 2004 to

Julie Leeman
13021 Barrett Crossing Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63122
636.861.1490

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

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Phone: 314-822-6595

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John Solodar	314-862-5294
Mike Thelen	314-862-6642
Linda Tossing	314-849-4260
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Attention!

The deadline for the Feb. issue is **January 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938
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St. Louis Audubon Society

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

____ Membership / \$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

____ Introductory Membership / \$20 ____ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

____ Senior Citizen (62 and older) / \$15 (New and renewal) ____ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

Membership in the St. Louis Audubon Society only. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122. ____ Donation to the SLAS, a gift for the birds.

____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

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